



Options for Governmental Units to Review and Update Population Counts: CQR, 2020 PCGQR, and Special Census

The Census Bureau offers several options for governmental units that would like to review their 2020 Census counts or update their population totals between decennial censuses. This document is a tool for governmental units to determine which option best suits their needs and describes the similarities and differences between these programs and operations.

Note: The table below uses the terms "corrected totals" and "updated totals." These terms are not interchangeable nor synonymous. "Corrected totals" refers to results of the 2020 CQR operation, while "updated totals" refers to 2020 PCGQR and Special Census results.

	Count Question Resolution (CQR)	2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR)	Special Census Program
What does the program or operation do?	The CQR operation gives tribal, state and local governmental units the opportunity to request that the Census Bureau review their boundaries and/or housing counts to identify errors that may have occurred while processing their 2020 Census counts.	The 2020 PCGQR is a new, one-time operation that gives tribal, state and local governmental units the opportunity to request that the Census Bureau review 2020 Census population counts for group quarters facilities. It was created in response to public feedback received on the Count Question Resolution operation about counting group quarters' populations during the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.	The Special Census program conducts a basic enumeration of population, housing units, group quarters and transitory locations at the request and expense of a governmental unit. A special census is conducted between decennial censuses.
Does it conduct a recount of 2020 Census?	No. The Census Bureau cannot legally conduct a recount, but the 2020 CQR can review a governmental unit's boundaries and/or housing counts to identify errors that may have occurred while processing their 2020 Census counts.	No. The Census Bureau cannot legally conduct a recount, but the 2020 PCGQR can review population counts of group quarters that governmental units believe were not counted correctly as of April 1, 2020.	No. A special census conducts a new enumeration that corresponds to the reference date for this new count. The results are separate from the 2020 Census.
Can it correct or update official 2020 Census counts?	Yes. If the 2020 CQR review process finds errors in 2020 Census counts related to geographic boundaries or housing placement, housing and corresponding population counts may be corrected. These corrected counts will be certified and distributed to all affected governmental units and will be provided to the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.	No. The 2020 PCGQR cannot change 2020 Census counts. If the review process finds discrepancies in these population counts supported by sufficient documentation, approved revisions to the group quarters population will be provided to the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.	No. A special census conducts a new enumeration with a different reference date. The results are separate from the 2020 Census and provide population totals as of the reference date.
Will corrected or updated population totals be reflected in official 2020 Census data products, including apportionment and redistricting?	No. 2020 Census data products will not reflect housing and population totals revised through the 2020 CQR.	No. 2020 Census data products will not reflect population totals updated through the 2020 PCGQR because the PCGQR does not alter 2020 Census counts.	No. A special census conducts a new enumeration that corresponds to the reference date for this new count. The results are separate from the 2020 Census.

	Count Question Resolution (CQR)	2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR)	Special Census Program
Will the Census Bureau issue certification of corrected 2020 Census counts?	Yes. CQR redistributes information that was already collected during the 2020 Census, so it can provide certification of a revised count.	No. It is not legally allowable to include new data collected after the census in the official 2020 Census results, and PCGQR will collect new data on eligible group quarters populations that were not counted during the 2020 Census operation.	No. A special census issues a certified population count as of the date the special census was conducted.
Will corrected or updated population totals be incorporated into the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program?	Yes. They will be included in the next population estimates base that the production schedule allows. The population estimates base references April 1, 2020 and is used to produce upcoming annual population estimates.	Yes. They will be included in the next population estimates base that the production schedule allows. The population estimates base references April 1, 2020 and is used to produce upcoming annual population estimates. Changes to demographic characteristics will be incorporated into subsequent rounds of estimates.	Yes. They will be incorporated into the next series of annual population estimates that the production schedule allows. A special census, by design, has a reference date after April 1, 2020, so these updated counts will not be included in the base used to calculate population estimates.
Will corrected or updated population totals be used for the American Community Survey (ACS) and Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS)?	Yes. 2020 CQR results are reflected in the survey controls for the ACS and PRCS. These controls are developed from the population estimates, which incorporate 2020 CQR results.	Yes. 2020 PCGQR results are reflected in the survey controls for the ACS and PRCS. These controls are developed from the population estimates, which incorporate 2020 PCGQR results.	Yes. Special Census results are reflected in the survey controls for the ACS and PRCS. These controls are developed from the population estimates, which incorporate Special Census results.
Will new data be collected?	No. Per federal law, 2020 CQR cannot collect new data. It can only correct errors that occurred when processing information that was collected during the 2020 Census.	Yes. It will collect new data for group quarters populations that were not counted during the 2020 Census operation but existed and were available for occupancy on April 1, 2020.	Yes. A special census conducts a new enumeration of population, housing units, and group quarters facilities.
Does it review legal boundaries?	Yes. It can review legal boundaries in place on January 1, 2020 to determine whether errors occurred when processing 2020 Census counts. This review helps ensure that housing and population counts were allocated to the correct 2020 Census blocks in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.	No. It only reviews population counts for group quarters that existed and were available for occupancy on April 1, 2020.	Yes. During a special census, the governmental unit is able to provide the Census Bureau with updates to their boundaries. Once the updates are made, the government has the opportunity to verify that the Census Bureau has updated these boundaries correctly. The governmental unit can provide additional updates or approve their materials at that time.
Does it cover group quarters population counts?	No. CQR can only review legal boundaries and housing counts related to the 2020 Census.	Yes. PCGQR can review 2020 Census population counts for group quarters that existed and were available for occupancy on April 1, 2020.	Yes. A special census can collect population counts for group quarters that existed and were available for occupancy on the reference date of the special census.

	Count Question Resolution (CQR)	2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR)	Special Census Program
Is there a cost to governmental units?	No. Governmental units do not pay a fee to participate in CQR, nor reimburse the Census Bureau for costs incurred to review their case.	No. Governmental units do not pay a fee to participate in PCGQR, nor reimburse the Census Bureau for costs incurred to review their case.	Yes. Governmental units assume full responsibility for the cost of the special census. The Census Bureau will provide a cost estimate as part of the agreement process.
When can governmental units submit requests?	January 03, 2022 - June 30, 2023	June 06, 2022 - June 30, 2023	Date to be announced. Expected to start March 2023
To initiate a request, do governmental units need to include a notification from the highest elected official?	Yes. It must indicate that they want the Census Bureau to review their 2020 census data through the 2020 CQR process. In their message they may choose to designate another person as the point of contact.	Yes. It must indicate that they want the Census Bureau to review their 2020 census data through the 2020 PCGQR process. In their message they may choose to designate another person as the point of contact.	No. But a message must be received from an official in the jurisdiction that indicates that they want to conduct a special census.
Where can additional information be found?	https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/evaluate/cqr.html	https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/evaluate/pcgqr.html	https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/specialcensus.html